

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Final Results of Cereal and Hay Harvest, 1947-48.

There still are a few minor wheat districts where the completion of the collection has been delayed and a number of odd returns from farmers in other districts outstanding but, rather than delay the final results, a safe estimate has been made for all these and hence the totals now submitted may be accepted subject to slight alteration.

RAINFALL etc. 1947 was an abnormal season from the viewpoint of rainfall. During January to March, which three months are prior to the generally understood cereal-growing season, the average rainfall for the agricultural areas was 359 points compared with the 42 years' mean of only 215. The next three months were rather dry, there being only 359 (460) points. The next four months all recorded good falls, the total for July to October being 949 (667) points. November recorded 114 (97) points.

Although seeding was delayed by the dry April-June period, and some areas had to be re-sown, the rains during the balance of the season were so good that prospects became very promising and record - or near record - wheat yields per acre were expected. Towards the end of October, prospects were for something over 40,000,000 and even up to 45,000,000 bushels. Rust, however, gradually became more prevalent, besides which there was takeall and haydie in some districts and, at the time of issuing the December forecast, the prospective yield had been reduced to 34,250,000 bushels. The damage, however, was even more extensive than expected and the final figure is only 32,265,050 bushels.

On the other hand, when issuing the December forecast for barley of 13,700,000 bushels, it was intimated that later reports were indicating that the barley crops were yielding more than expected. The final figure of 15,283,345 bushels proves that the later reports were correct.

The oat yield is always difficult to forecast and the actual of 5,339,359 bushels is in excess of the forecast of 4,750,000 bushels.

NOTE:- 1947-48 particulars are shown hereunder with those for 1946-47 in parentheses. When comparing the yields, the April-November rainfall of 1,422 points in 1947 (1,013 points in 1946) must be remembered. For Statistical purposes, the weight of the bags is not counted as grain.

WHEAT:- The yield of 32,265,050 (27,906,001) bushels averaged 13.62 (11.08) bushels per acre from an area of 2,368,171 (2,518,948) acres including areas failed. Including wheat for hay and green forage, the total area was 2,480,840 (2,662,150) acres.

WHEAT AND FALLOW:- On fallowed land, 1,813,566 acres of wheat produced 27,320,781 bushels averaging 15.06 bushels per acre. On not fallowed land, there were 554,605 acres with 4,944,269 bushels averaging 8.91 bushels. The average yields the previous season were 12.82 bushels on fallow land and 6.50 on land not fallowed.

BARLEY:- The yield totalled 15,283,345 (8,424,061) bushels and the average per acre was 27.21 (16.78). 14,331,798 bushels were reported to be 2 row (malting) and 951,547 bushels 6 row. The acreage for grain was 561,638 (502,005) and for all purposes 579,795 (520,027). The barley yield substantially exceeds the previous record of 11,714,002 bushels and 24.49 bushels per acre in 1941-42.

OATS:- The yield totalled 5,339,359 (2,780,364) bushels and the average per acre was 17.25 (11.01). The acreage for grain was 309,453 (252,325) acres, and for all purposes 560,294 (485,736). The previous record yield of oats was 4,062,541 bushels in 1939-40.

CEREALS ETC. USED ON FARMS. Farmers reported that they used the following quantities of cereals, etc. on their farms during the twelve months ended March 1948. For seed - Wheat 2,574,681, Barley 780,527 and Oats 717,910 bushels. For feed for livestock and poultry - Wheat 1,423,998, Barley 955,542, Oats 640,029 bushels and Hay and Chaff 244,055 tons. Of the wheat produced in 1947-48, it was reported that 2,428,455 bushels were retained on the farms for seed and 680,019 bushels for feed.

RYE:- There has been a decided increase in the areas cropped with rye. In 1935-36 there were only 1,680 acres and for 1947-48 a total of 33,267 of which 24,789 (21,753) were for grain yielding 108,443 (69,754) bushels.

FIELD PEAS:- 228,439 (121,557) bushels from 13,075 (11,371) acres.

HAY:- 297,937 (329,307) acres were cut for hay, wheaten being 107,512 (134,391) and oaten 150,018 (159,681) acres. The total yield was 446,110 (432,955) tons, wheaten being 169,855 (182,213) and oaten 205,475 (193,105). Average tons per acre were 1.50 (1.31).

ACREAGES:- The following table shows the total areas under wheat, barley and oats for all purposes (grain, hay or green fodder) for 1930-31 - the maximum year for wheat; for 1939-40 - the maximum year for barley and oats; for 1943-44 - the lowest areas in crecent years; for 1945-46 - showing the increase during the next 2 seasons; for 1946-47; for 1947-48 - the season just passed; and for 1948-49 representing the areas that farmers indicated they intended to sow when particulars of the recent harvest were being collected during the past 3 or 4 months. Particulars of actual sowings are being collected at present to ascertain whether or not farmers put in the full areas that they had intended. It is noted that the total area under wheat, barley and oats is now remaining fairly constant, but barley and oats areas are increasing while wheat is decreasing.

<u>Season</u>	<u>Wheat</u>	<u>Barley</u>	<u>Oats</u>	<u>Total</u>
1930-31 acres	4,507,213	267,369	519,300	5,293,882
1939-40 "	2,948,110	558,559	834,793	4,341,462
1943-44 "	1,675,778	304,382	563,565	2,543,725
1945-46 "	2,407,253	479,384	686,128	3,572,765
1946-47 "	2,662,150	520,027	485,736	3,667,913
1947-48 "	2,480,840	579,795	560,294	3,620,929
1948-49 "	2,230,000	700,000	680,000	3,610,000

VARIETIES SOWN:- Particulars of the acreages sown with the principal varieties of wheat, barley and oats will be published later.

THE ATTACHED STATEMENTS show details of 1947-48 crops in Statistical Divisions and also the 1947-48 totals compared with the five previous seasons.

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Statistical Office,
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28th July, 1948.

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

FINAL RESULTS OF CEREALS AND HAY, 1947-48

1. ACREAGE CROPPED

Divisions	Total Cereals Peas, Hay Forage	GRAIN			Hay Total	Fed Off Areas (total)
		Wheat	Barley	Oats		
Central	893,946	434,734	271,157	37,176	107,041	32,251
Lower North	827,895	603,513	113,029	36,135	54,742	17,523
Upper North	194,006	169,925	1,992	5,238	14,369	2,068
South Eastern	124,738	44,590	15,984	30,327	27,716	5,291
Western	1,022,998	652,687	82,701	165,945	53,850	66,896
Murray Mallee	652,177	462,722	76,775	34,632	40,219	16,668
Total 1947-48	3,715,760	2,368,171	561,638	309,453	297,937	140,697
Total 1946-47	3,757,509	2,518,948	502,005	252,325	329,307	121,800
Increase or Decrease	-41,749	-150,771	59,633	57,128	-31,370	18,897

2. PRODUCTION OF GRAIN AND HAY

Divisions	GRAIN						Hay Total
	Wheat		Barley		Oats		
	Bush	Aver.	Bush	Aver.	Bush	Aver.	Tons
Central	7,516,190	17.29	8,489,123	31.31	877,696	23.61	192,244
Lower North	11,447,497	18.97	3,220,357	28.49	1,039,165	28.76	91,187
Upper North	2,169,502	12.77	47,251	23.73	113,347	21.64	21,089
South Eastern	584,170	13.10	279,477	17.48	598,752	19.74	43,918
Western	6,962,622	10.67	2,053,454	24.83	2,297,159	15.84	54,950
Murray Mallee	3,585,069	7.75	1,193,673	15.55	413,230	11.93	42,722
Total 1947-48	32,265,050	13.62	15,283,345	27.21	5,339,359	17.25	446,110
Total 1946-47	27,906,001	11.08	8,424,061	16.78	2,780,364	11.01	432,955
Increase	4,359,049	2.54	6,859,284	10.43	2,558,995	6.24	13,155

3. FIVE YEARS' COMPARISON

Year	WHEAT			Rainfall Agric. April- Nov.	BARLEY		OATS	
	Area	Yield	Aver. per Acre		Yield	Bush		
			Inches					
	Acres	Bush	Bush		Bush	Bush	Bush	
1942-43	2,009,027	36,525,459	18.18	16.11	6,020,364	3,365,025		
1943-44	1,533,816	20,690,471	13.49	10.68	5,057,594	2,294,359		
1944-45	1,623,145	9,244,211	5.70	8.84	3,184,831	1,316,283		
1945-46	2,165,004	21,033,841	9.72	10.74	7,566,146	3,178,450		
1946-47	2,518,948	27,906,001	11.08	10.13	8,424,061	2,780,364		
Mean	1,969,988	23,079,996	11.72	11.30	6,050,599	2,586,896		
1947-48	2,368,171	32,265,050	13.62	14.22	15,283,345	5,339,359		

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